

As a consumer I value obtaining Internet service from an independent ISP such as Sonic.net, and BellSouth's request would badly affect consumers with regards to my available choice of Internet Service for broadband. The independent ISPs very much value the phone companies as partners in providing DSL service to consumers, but they are concerned that if they were not required to provide access to all ISPs, independent ISPs and Sonic.net (my ISP) and all of their customers could suffer badly. The companies which built the Internet itself should not be wiped away and replaced by the large telephone monopolies. I have personal experience with having internet service from a large phone company and smaller independent ISPs. The smaller ISPs are more willing to work with me on connectivity problems, resolving modem issues, account questions and other items in a timely manner. There is a more personal touch.

Thank you for your time.